

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant notes, with appreciation, the identification of claims 3 and 10 as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 3 and 10 have been so rewritten as independent claims 16 and 17, respectively.

With regard to the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,613,230 to Gottfried et al., applicant respectfully submits that Gottfried et al. fails to teach every feature of the present invention. Gottfried et al. fails to teach an automatic gain control circuit comprising "controlling means for deciding at least one of a generation timing of the control signal and a generation period of the control signal in response to a predetermined physical quantity", as claimed in amended claim 1. Gottfried et al. suggests that a time constant of an automatic gain control can be reduced via a control line from a microcontroller while the device is in seek mode. This allows the tuned signal strength to react quickly to a radio frequency signal level present at an antenna. Col. 5, ln. 23-31. Thus, reducing the time constant of the automatic gain control according to Gottfried et al. is not in response to a predetermined physical quantity. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by Gottfried et al.

Further With regard to the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Gottfried et al., applicant respectfully submits that Gottfried et al. also fails to teach an automatic gain control circuit comprising control signal generating means for averaging a detected signal level for a predetermined time, as claimed in amended claim 1. According to Gottfried et al., a received signal is

read and compared to a target value to ensure that the received signal falls within an acceptable tolerance of the target value. This process is continuously repeated to quickly react to values of the received signal falling outside of that tolerance. In contrast, the present invention claimed in amended claim 1 samples a received signal over a predetermined period of time and compares the average of those values for that period to a target value. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is not anticipated by Gottfried et al.

With regard to the rejection of claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Gottfried et al., applicant respectfully submits that Gottfried et al. fails to teach every feature of the present invention. For reasons analogous to those above regarding the rejection of claim 1, Gottfried et al. fails to teach an automatic gain control circuit and method wherein at least one of a generation timing of the control signal and a generation period of the control signal is in response to a predetermined physical quantity, as claimed in amended claims 8 and 9.

Also analogous to the remarks above regarding the rejection of claim 1, Gottfried et al. fails to teach an automatic gain control circuit and method wherein a detected receiving signal level is averaged for a predetermined time, as claimed in amended claims 8 and 9. According to Gottfried et al., a received signal is read and compared to a target value to ensure that the received signal falls within an acceptable tolerance of the target value. This process is continuously repeated to quickly react to values of the received signal falling outside of that tolerance. In contrast, the present invention claimed in amended claim 8 samples a received signal over a predetermined period of time and compares the average of those values for that period to a target value. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claims 8 and 9, as amended, are not anticipated by Gottfried et al.

With regard to the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,292,598 to Yasumura, applicant respectfully submits that Yasumura fails to teach every

feature of the present invention. Yasumura fails to teach an automatic gain control circuit comprising control signal generating means for averaging a detected signal level for a predetermined time, as claimed in amended claim 1. According to Yasumura, a time constant of an automatic gain controller is variable in response to noise, or unusual peaks in a received signal detected by a first level detector. When such noise occurs, a second level detector modulates the received signal to adjust the time constant, thereby increasing the response time of the automatic gain controller. Thus, the automatic gain controller of Yasumura will not react quickly in the presence of noise in a received signal falling outside of a range of acceptable amplitudes.

In contrast, the present invention includes an averaging portion to average values of a received signal during a predetermined period of time to account for outlying noise, as claimed in amended claim 1. This average value is then compared to a target value to determine the value of the gain required to maintain the desired output signal without causing a sudden reaction to the noise. Thus, the averaging of the detected signal values mitigates the effect of noise in the signal by weighting the effect of noise corresponding to its magnitude and duration. Accordingly, applicant submits that claim 1 is not anticipated by Yasumura.

Regarding the rejection of claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yasumura, applicant respectfully submits that Yasumura fails to teach every feature of the present invention. For reasons analogous to those above regarding the rejection of claim 1, applicant respectfully submits that Yasumura fails to teach averaging a detected signal level for a predetermined time, as claimed in amended claims 8 and 9. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claims 8 and 9 are not anticipated by Yasumura.

With regard to the rejection of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Gottfried et al. and Yasumura, applicant respectfully submits that claim 15 includes the limitations of the method

Appl. No. 09/527,924
Amdt. Dated August 22, 2003
Reply to Office action of June 6, 2003

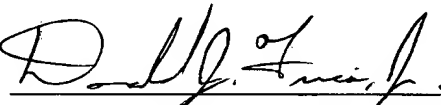
according to claim 9. Thus, claim 15 is not anticipated by either Gottfried et al. or Yasumura for reasons analogous to those discussed above regarding the rejection of claim 9.

Any remaining claims are allowable for the limitations set forth therein and for the reasons for the claims from they depend.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 32429.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: August 22, 2003